

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 1901
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSULATE MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CZ
SUBJECT: TWO SEQUELS TO CHARTER 77 SURFACE

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED COPIES, WHICH WE ARE POUCHING TO EUR/EE, OF TWO UNSIGNED DOCUMENTS ISSUED OVER THE TYPED NAMES OF SPOKESMEN FOR CHARTER 77. THEY APPEAR TO BE AUTHENTIC, AND INDICATE THAT THE CHARTER 77 GROUP HAS MADE PLANS TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS IF ORIGINAL SPOKESMEN ARRESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST OF THESE DOCUMENTS, ENTITLED "DECLARATION OF CHARTER 77
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NUMBER TWO" AND DATED PRAGUE, JANUARY 7, 1977, ATTACKS THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR FOR VARIOUS ACTS OF HARRASSMENT AND ARRESTS. IT CHARGES THAT IN THE COURSE OF HOUSE SEARCHES CONDUCTED JANUARY 6, PERSONAL PROPERTY, BOOKS, MANUSCRIPTS AND LETTERS WERE SEIZED FROM THE LIVING QUARTERS OF PROMINENT DISSIDENTS VACLAV HAVEL, LUDVIK VACULIK AND ZDENEK URBANEK.

IT FURTHER ALLEGES THAT "OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PRAGUE" WERE FILMED AND TAKEN FROM HAVEL.

COMMENT: HAVEL IS ON EMBASSY MAILING LIST FOR USIS CZECH-LANGUAGE PUBLICATION SPEKTRUM).

3. THE FIRST DOCUMENT GOES ON TO ASSERT THAT THE SEARCHES WERE ILLEGAL, IN THAT NO CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THOSE SEARCHED HAD (AT THAT TIME) BEEN ANNOUNCED, AND THAT THE FILMING OF PERSONS, THEIR PROPERTY AND LIVING QUARTERS IS CONTRARY TO SECTION 237 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE. NOTE: FILMING WAS ALLEGEDLY CARRIED OUT WITH TELEVISION CAMERAS, SUGGESTING THAT A TV SPECIAL MAY BE UNDER PREPARATION. ENDNOTE

4. THE DOCUMENT CONCLUDES WITH AN IDEALISTIC APPEAL TO A "HIGHER AUTHORITY" AND WITH A DEFENSE OF CHARTER 77, WHICH IT CALLS "JUSTIFIED AND NEEDED." IT BEARS THE NAME OF DR. JAN PATOCKA, ONE OF THE THREE ORIGINAL "SPOKESMEN" FOR THE GROUP.

5. THE SECOND DOCUMENT, ENTITLED "WHAT CHARTER 77 IS AND IS NOT" BEGINS WITH A PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSION OF THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. IT DISCUSSES THE CONCEPT OF A "HIGHER MORALITY," WITHOUT WHICH, IT SAYS, "NO TECHNICALLY-EQUIPPED SOCIETY CAN FUNCTION." IT THEN DECLARES THAT "THE TIME IS RIGHT" FOR "THESE SIMPLE THESES PROVEN BY THE PAINFUL EXPERIENCE OF LONG DECADES" TO "ENTER THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF ALL".

6. THE SECOND DOCUMENT, WHICH BEARS THE NAMES OF THE THREE SPOKESMEN FOR CHARTER 77, VACLAV HAVEL, JAN PATOCKA AND JIRI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAJEK, ANNOUNCES THAT THOSE THREE HAVE NAMED BACK-UP SPOKESMEN IN CASE THEY THEMSELVES ARE PREVENTED FROM CONTINUING THEIR WORK. BY RNE

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